THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Identification of Backward areas for Income Tax concessions

946. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken to identify the backward areas for giving income tax concessions;

(b) which are the backward areas notified for five years income tax holidays to the new industrial units;

(c) whether Government have consulted the State Government to select the backward areas; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Government has set up a group headed by Shri M. K. Kaw and consisting of members representing the Ministry of Industry, the Planning Ministry and Department of Revenue. The group is examining the various issues for selecting the criteria for identifying backward districts. The report of the group is expected shortly.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, State Governments are being consulted. Letters have been addressed to the Chief Secretaries of all the States and the officers from the Ministry of Finance are meeting the officers in the State Governments in order to identify the areas and collect data.

Regional Rural Banks in Maharashtla

947. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the places in Maharashtra where the Regional Rural Banks and their branches are situated;

(b) which of their branches are running in profit and which are in losses;

(c) which are the branches which are likely to be marged and the ones likely to be closed; and

(d) what is Government's policy in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) There are ten Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating in the State of Maharashtra having a network of 591 branches. A Statement giving details of districts covered, number of branches and loss incurred by each of the ten RRBs as at the end of 31-3-93 is annexed. (*See* below) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that branch-wise figure of losses/profits is not available.

(c) and (d) Instructions have been issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December, 1993 permitting RRBs to relocate the loss making branches at places like Mandis, Taluk/district headquters, agriculture produce centres, etc. and to open extension counteres at premises of institutions for which the RRB is the principal banker. This is a continuous